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学位の種類	博士（医学）
報告番号	甲第1475号
学位記番号	第1061号
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授与年月日	平成 27 年 3 月 25 日
学位論文の題名	Good Death for Children with Cancer: A Qualitative Study (小児がん患者における望ましい死：質的研究)  Japanese Journal of Clinical Oncology in press
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## **ABSTRACT**

**BACKGROUND:** There is little evidence to clarify the components regarding good death for pediatric cancer patients. This study aims to explore the characteristics of a good death for children with cancer.

**METHODS:** A total of 10 pediatric cancer survivors, 10 bereaved family members, and 20 medical professionals participated in in-depth interviews. Qualitative content analysis(1) was performed on the transcribed data obtained from semi-structured interviews.

**RESULTS:** A total of 513 codes were identified from all interviews and 71 subcategories were extracted. These were eventually summarized into 13 components of a good death: 1. Sufficient opportunities to play freely, 2. Peer supporters, 3. Continued access to the patient's usual activities and relationships, 4. Assurance of privacy, 5. Respect for the patient's decisions and preferences, 6. A sense that others acknowledge and respect the patient's childhood, 7. Comfort care to minimize distressing symptoms, 8. Hope, 9. Not aware of the patient's own impending death, 10. Constant

dignity, 11. Strong family relationships, 12. No sense of being a burden to family members, and 13.

Good relationships with medical staffs.

**CONCLUSIONS:** This study identifies important characteristics of a good death for children with cancer. These findings may help medical staffs provide optimal care for children with cancer and their families, enabling them to achieve a good death.

## **Reference**

1. Mayring P. Qualitative Content Analysis. Forum: Qualitative social research. 2000;1(2).